

## Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6952

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR FR GV

SUBJ: FRANCO-GUINEAN RELATIONS

1. TWO RECENT EVENTS HAVE SERVED TO PUT GUINEA ONCE AGAIN INTO UNFAVORABLE PROMINENCE IN THE FRENCH PRESS. FIRST, THE GOF, ACTING UNDER AN OLD LAW THAT ON THE SURFACE HARDLY SEEMS TO COVER THE CASE, SEIZED AT THE PRINTERS ALL COPIES OF "AFRICAN PRISON", AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL BOOK BY JEAN-PAUL ALATA, SEKOU TOURE'S FORMER COLLABORATOR WHO SPENT FIVE YEARS IN GUINEAN JAILS AND WAS AMONG THE 18 FRENCHMEN FINALLY RELEASED LAST YEAR. SECOND, "JEUNE AFRIQUE" IN ITS ISSUES OF NOV 5 AND 12 PRINTED IN EXTENSO SEKOU'S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST DIALLO TELLI, THE LATTER'S "CONFESSIONS", AND SEKOU'S LONG SPEECH OF LAST AUGUST 22 DESCRIBED AS A "DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST THE PEULS".

2. MANY FRENCH JOURNALS HAVE COMMENTED ON BOTH THESE EVENTS, CRITICIZING THE GOF FOR THE "UNJUSTIFIED" SEIZURE OF THE ALATA WORK AND SEKOU FOR HIS REPRESSIVE ACTS. UNDER THE BANNER "SEKOU TOURE'S LITTLE GOULAG",  
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SOCIALIST "NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR" OF NOV 8-14 CARRRIES AN

INTERVIEW WITH ALATA GIVING A GORY DESCRIPTION OF HIS EXPERIENCES AND ATTACKS THE GOF FOR SUPPRESSING THE BOOK. "LE MONDE" OF NOV 7-8 GIVES JUICY EXTRACTS OF SEKOU'S "INDICTMENT OF THE PEULS" AND REPORTS WIDESPREAD "RUMORS" THAT TELLI HAS BEEN ASSASSINATED BY HIS JAILERS.

3. COMMENT: THE GOF'S EFFORTS TO SOOTHE SEKOU BY SUPPRESSING ALATA'S BOOK SEEM TO HAVE BACKFIRED. BEYOND THE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND SEKOU THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN GENERATED, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE COURTS WILL NOT UPHOLD THE SEIZURE AND THAT THE DAMNING BOOK WILL APPEAR ANYWAY, ATTRACTING A MUCH BROADER AUDIENCE THAN IT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE ENJOYED. ALTHOUGH AS LATE AS LAST WEDNESDAY THE QUAI "EXPECTED" THAT GISCARD WOULD VISIT CONAKRY AT THE END OF THE YEAR, SUBSEQUENT MEDIA ATTENTION TO CONDITIONS IN GUINEA SEEMS LIKELY TO MOVE ONE OR BOTH SIDES TO POSTPONE THE PLANNED TRIP.  
RUSH

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